Import of cotton from Pakistan

2697. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have imported 75,000 bales of cotton from Pakistan in spite of availability of cotton on a large scale in our country;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the amount spent on this account ?

(c) whether it is also a fact that the cotton so purchased is lying in CCI godowns; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken for its disposal ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Import of 75,000 bales of Medium Staple Cotton from Pakistan was made in 1984-85 to meet the shortage and stabilise the prices of this variety of cotton in the domestic market. Rs. 13.57 crores were spent on these imports. Simultaneously, Government allowed export of 2.95 lakh bales of long and extra-long staple cotton, which was surplus to our domestic requirements.

(c) and (d) The imported cotton has been consumed by National Textiles Corporation's Mills.

Loan from ADB for industrial projects

2698. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced a loan of $ 150 millions to our country to support industrial projects; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the loan and the method of distribution of the loan among states and Union Territories ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY) : (a) and (b) The Asian Development Bank has agreed to extend a credit of $ 150 million for financing a part of the foreign exchange cost of the North Madras Thermal Power Project in the State of Tamil Nadu. The credit is expected to be repaid over a period of 25 years including a grace period of 5 years. The rate of interest will be as applicable under the variable lending rate announced by the ADB. The rate of interest currently charged by ADB is 7.65 per cent. No other project in any other State or Union Territory is proposed to be financed out of this loan amount.

Effect of Amnesty Scheme of FERA

2699. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 1300 prosecution cases filed by the Enforcement Directorate will be affected by the recent amnesty declared by Government in FERA matters; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) The amnesty scheme in FERA declared by the Government will not be applicable to the cases where prosecutions have already been launched.

(b) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

Deal with a South African firm by Modi Textiles Ltd.

2700. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article in the September 14—20, 1986 issue of Sunday Magazine regarding deal with an African firm by Modi Textiles Ltd.; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any action against Modi's for dealing with South African firm ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However the article refers to Modi Fibres and not to Modi Textiles. The said article notes that Gwalior Rayon has submitted a memorandum with "the implicit allegation" that South African pulp "will find its way into India to feed the Modi